APPROVED

Pharos Academy Charter School

Minutes

Special Meeting of the PHACS Board of Trustees

Date and Time
Monday August 10, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location
1005 Intervale Avenue
Bronx, NY 10459

Additional Locations:
40 Exchange Place, NY, NY
525 W 49th Street, NY, NY
700 Larrabee Street, Chicago, IL
863 Home Street, Bronx, NY
326 McClellan Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY
1 Battery Park Plaza, NY, NY
752 Hickory Hill Road, Wyckoff, NJ
2 Dows Lane, Irvington, NY

Trustees Present
G. Garcia (remote), J. Lopez-Molina (remote), J. Rivera (remote), J. Sowell (remote), P. Wesonga (remote), T. Perez (remote), T. South (remote), V. Angeles (remote)

Trustees Absent
K. Shah

Guests Present
C. Russell (remote), T. Brown (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

J. Lopez-Molina called a meeting to order on Monday Aug 10, 2026 at 6:05 PM.

II. 26 - 27 Calendar

A. 26 - 27 Calendar

Dr. Brown presented the rationale requesting a later start date. The Board approved an August 31, 2026 start date and the school is requesting a September 10, 2026 start date. (See far below).

The Board members asked about:

Financial implications (none)
How we would adjust the calendar (taking a shorter winter break aligned with the NYC DOE calendar and winter break)
How and when will this be communicated with families (ParentSquare message prepared to go out to all families on Monday; school staff will also give reminders to families as they call and stop in)
If families have prepared for an August 31 start date, what will we do to support them and do not have coverage (if a family needs childcare we can work with them and determine how to support them)
What does communication look like (ParentSquare system described, tracking "read" emails/messages, follow up with those who don't open)
Vendors still budget neutral (we are still early enough that we can modify the start dates - example if our food vendor to determine start date)
Will teachers still have Professional Development the week of August 31 (yes)

Here are some of the benefits to moving the start date to the DOE date.
1. Bussing will be available for our bussed scholars. (K-5) students.
2. Many of our families are still on vacation and coming back after Labor Day.
3. We are doing a lot of major cleaning, maintenance and repairs in the school. The extra time would be helpful.
4. More time with teacher training and onboarding.

Downsides
1. We have communicated this date to our families and communities.

2. Some families may have made plans for their children to return that week.

V. Angeles made a motion to move the start date of Pharos Academy Charter School for the 26 - 27 school year from the previously approved date of August 31, 2026 to September 10, 2026 and adjust the year-long calendar accordingly.
J. Rivera seconded the motion.
The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Russell